

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4349

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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 11473

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, US JA

SUBJ: ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS: KOREAN MINISTER CALL

REF A. TOKYO 11328 B. TOKYO 11329 C. STATE 192529

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: IN CALL ON POLCOUNS, ROK EMBASSY MINISTER YOON SOUGHT VIEWS ON MEANING BEHIND RECENT FONMIN KIMURA'S STATEMENTS ON "THREAT FROM NORTH", EXPRESSING CONCERN THAT KIMURA'S REMARKS INDICATED CHANGE IN JAPAN' POLICY TOWARD KOREA. YOON EXPRESSED HOPE USG COULD INFLEUNCE JAPAN ON KOREAN IMPASSE. WHILE RECOGNIZING POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES PRES PARK'S DEMANDS CAUSE TANAKA AND GPJ, KOREANS NEVERTHELESS, INSIST ON CLAMPDOWN ON CHOSEN SOREN. END SUMMARY.

1. AT OWN INITIATIVE, ROK EMBASSY MINISTER YOON HA JPNG CALLED ON POLCOUNS SEP 4 TO SEEK VIEWS ON WHETHER RECENT
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RE ARKS BY FONMIN KIMURA (REF A) REPRESENTED POLICY

CHANGE AND TO EXPRESS HOPE USG WOULD INFLUENCE TO MODIFY JAPAN'S CURRENT POSTURE TOWARDS KOREA. SPECIFICALLY, YOON SOUGHT ASSESSMENT OF KIMURA'S STATEMENTS A) THAT THERE WAS NO THREAT TO ROK FROM NK AND B) MODIFYING NIXON-SATO 1969 COMMUNIQUE TO SAY THAT SITUATION HAD CHANGED AND THAT PEACE IN "KOREAN PENINSULA" (AS OPPOSED TO "SOUTH KOREA" AS IN '69 COMMUNIQUE) VITAL TO JAPAN'S SECURITY. YOON SAID KIMURA IGNORED INCREASING NUMBER OF INCIDENTS PERPETRATED BY NK AND INCREASED INFILTRATION OF NK AGENTS THROUGH JAPAN AGAINST ROK. HE WONDERED WHETHER MODIFICATION OF '69 COMMUNIQUE WAS MERELY GEOPGRPHICAL EXPRESSION OR DID CHANGE MEAN THAT JAPAN WAS MOVING TOWARD BALANCING OF RELATIONS WITH NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA AND PERHAPS RECOGNITION OF NK. JAPAN' RECOGNITION OF NK (AS RECOGNITION BY OTHER MAJOR POWERS LIKE UK, FRANCE AND FRG) WOULD BE SEVERE BLOW TO ROK.

2. POLCOUNS RESPONDED THAT BASED ON WIDE RANGE OF CONTACTS WITH GOJ WE WERE CONFIDENT THAT GOJ WANTED TO PROTECT RELATIONSHIP WITH ROK AND KIMURA'S FORMULATIONS DID NOT SEEM TO REPRESENT BASIC POLICY CHANGE BY GOJ. AS FOR GOJ RESPONSE TO ROK DEMANDS, HE NOTED LIMITATIONS UNDER WHICH WEAKENED TANAKA GOVERNMENT MUST COPE WITH

PROBLEM: A) POLITICAL OPPOSITON IN JAPAN; B) LEGAL PROBLEMS OF MEETING ROK DEMANDS; C) HISTORICAL AND EMOTIONAL ASPECTS OF CURRENT PROBLEM. YOON ACKNOWLEDGED FORCE OF THESE PROBLEMS AND REAL DIFFICULTIES TANAKA WOULD HAVE IN MEETING DEMANDS.

3. RESPONDING TO QUERY AS TO PRECISE ROK DEMANDS, YOON SAID ROK WANTED THOROUGH GOJ INVESTIGATION OF ASSASSINATION BACKGROUND AND SUPPRESSION OF CHOSEN SOREN. YOON VOLUNTEERED THAT HE KNEW JAPANESE POLICE WERE DOING THEIR BEST. BUT, HE SAID ROK WAS "OUTRAGED" BY ACTIVITIES OF CHOSEN SOREN AND ASSERTED THAT IF GOJ DID NOT CURTAIL THEIR ACTIVITIES NOW, CHOSEN SOREN CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD BE EVEN MORE UNMANAGEABLE IN FUTURE AND IN POSITION TO INCREASE ATTACKS ON ROK. YOON SAID FONOFF DIRGEN ASIAN BUREAU TAKASHIMA INFORMED HIM GOJ WAS WORKING ON ELABORATING STATEMENT (WHICH YOON HOPED WOULD BE CONCILIATORY TO BE USED IN DIET SEPT. 5.

4. POLCOUNS ASKED IF ROK HAD EVIDENCE WHICH WOULD INDICATE CRIMINAL OR OTHER CRIMINAL OR OTHER ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES ON PART

OF CHOSEN SOREN IN JAPAN WHICH WOULD PROVIDIE BASIS FOR LEGAL ACTION BY GOJ AGAINST THEM. YOON ADMITTED THERE APPEARED TO BE ONLY QUESTIONABLE OR NO LEGAL BASIS FOR MOVING AGIANST CHSEN SOREN. GOJ COULD ACT ADMINISTRATIVELY AGAINST CHOSOREN, RESTRICTING PASSPORT ISSUANCE, CURBING FLOW OF FUNDS, ETC, BUT BASICALLY PM TANAKA WOULD HAVE TO MOVE AGAINST ORGANIZATION AS POLITICAL ACT. POLCOUNS ASKED IF LDP AND TANAKA WERE STRONG ENOUGH AND YOON ADMITTED THEIR WEAKNESS AND THAT REACTION WOULD BE FEEOCIOUS.

5. YOON ASKED FOR POLCOUNS ASSESSMENT. IN RESPONSE, POLCOUNS SAID IN OWN ESTIMATE ROK WAS ASKING GOJ FOR VERY DICCICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE ACTIONS. EXPRESSING UNDERSTANDING FOR TOKG CONCERN ABOUT CHOSEN SOREN, HE CONCLUDED THAT SCOPE OF DEMAND TO SUPRESS CHOSEN SOREN IMMEDIATELY AND MANNER OF PRESENTATION MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR TANAKA TO RESPOND POSITIVELY, FOR POLITICAL REASONS.

6. IN CONTENT OF SUGGESTION THAT USG TRY TO INFLUENCE GOJ YOON WONDERED IF TNANAK COULD NOT SECRETELY SEND ENVY (A FORMER PM HE SAID) WITH PERSONAL LETTER TO PARK OUTLINING, MAN-TO-MAN THE POLITICAL REALITIES IN JAPAN AND THE CONSEQUENT IMPOSSIBILITY FOR GOJ TO TAKE ACTIONS PARK WAS DEMANDING. POLCOUNS INVERTED THE SUGGESTION AND ASKED IF PARK MIGHT NOT SECRETELY SEND PERHAPS A DISTINGUISHED PARLIAMENTARIAN WITH PERSONAL LETTER TO ANANAKA. YOON SAID ANTI JAPANESE AND ANTI-CHOSOREN SENTIMENT IN ROK WERE MOUNTING AND POPULAR CONSENSUS WOULD OPPOSE PRES PARK'S DOING THIS. CALL CONCLUDED WITH YOON SAYING ROK DID NOT WANT RELATIONS WITH JAPAN TO DETERIORATE FURTHER ("NO OVERT MOVEMENT NOW TO BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS")
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7 COMMENT: YOON IS A THOUGHTFUL MAN, WELL-INFORMED ABOUT JAPAN AND SEEMED TO ANSWER HONESTLY BEFORE INVARIABLY REVERTING TO EXPRESSIONS OF NECESSITY FOR GOJ TO ACT AGAINST CHOSEN SOREN HIS GENERAL CONCURRENCE IN OUR CANDID ASSESSMENT OF JAPANES POLITICAL ENVIRON-
MENT, AND HIS OWN VIEW THAT GOJ HAS ONLY LIMITED LEGAL BASIS FOR MOVING AGAINST CHOSOREN,WWOULD BE USEFUL FOR THEM TO REPORT TO SEOUL.

8. FONOFF, MISITRY OF JUSTICE, AND POLICE HAVE BEEN CLOSETED THROUGH SEPT. 4 TRYING TO DECIDE LEGAL AND POLITICAL POSSIBILITIES AND RAMIFICATION OF VARIOUS COURSES OF ACTION. EXPECTED KIMURA STATEMENT IN DIET TODAY CLARIFYING GOJ POSITON ON "THREAT FROM NORTH"

COULD ALSO PROVIDE CLUE TO DIRECTION GOJ PLANS FOR
NEAR FUTURE. WE ARE REPORTING FURTHER BY SEPTTEL.
HODGSON

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